

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the relatedness between the new claims and those in U.S. Patents 5,405,940, 6,034,214, and 5,462,871, all of which do not have common inventorship or a common assignee relative to the instant application.

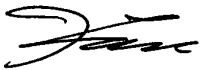
In particular, Applicants wish to point out that claim 21 may relate to the subject matter of claims 1-9 of 5,405,940 and at least the subject matter of claims 1 and 2 of 6,034,214. Additionally, claim 22 may relate to the subject matter of at least claims 1 and 3 of 5,462,871.

No new matter has been added and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 399632505100. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: September 19, 2000

Respectfully submitted,

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